

DC COMICS
VERTIGO

No. 1
1991

the sandman

Gallery of Dreams



with an introduction
by Neil
Gaiman

A
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THE SANDMAN: A GALLERY OF DREAMS

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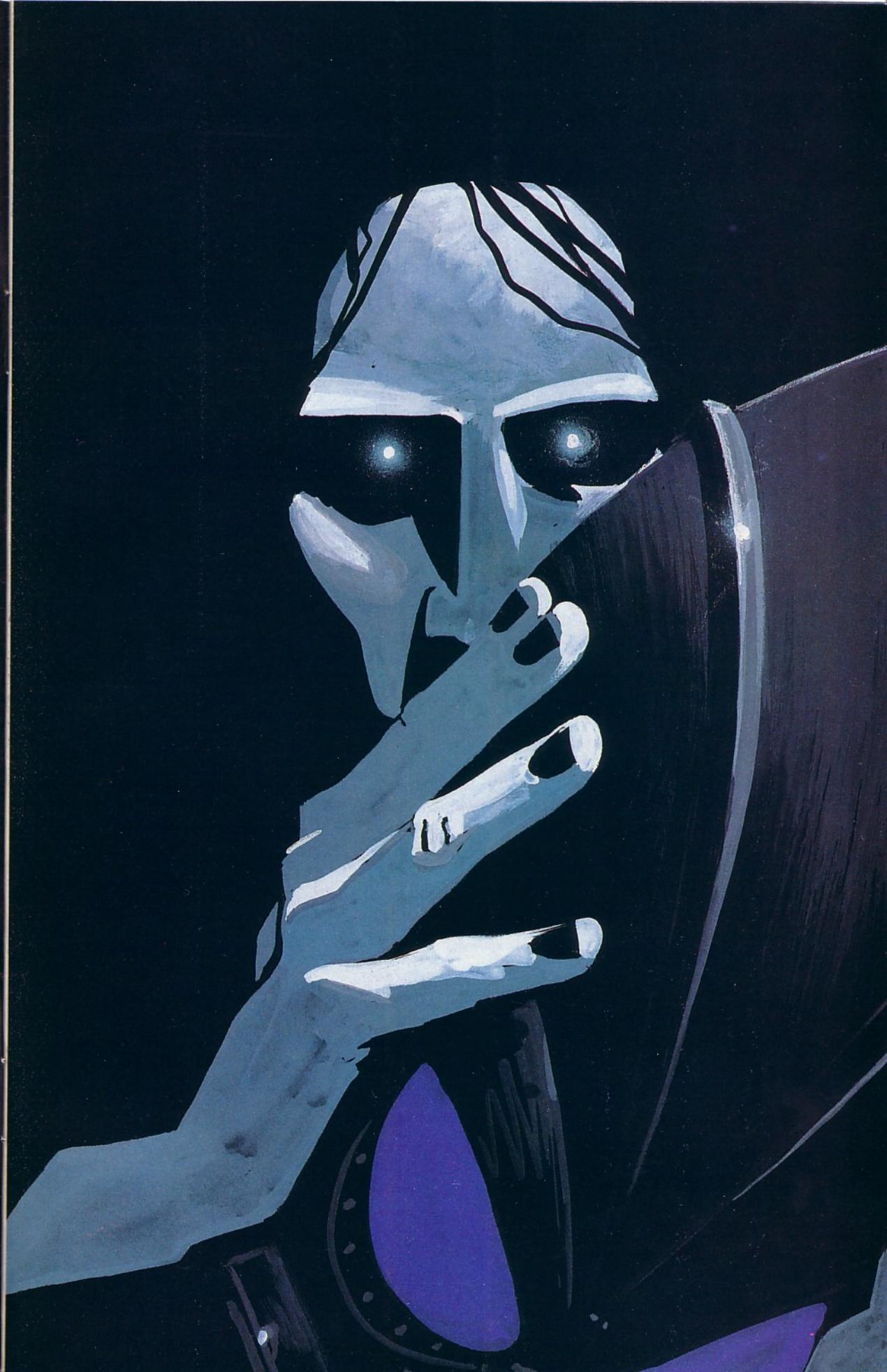
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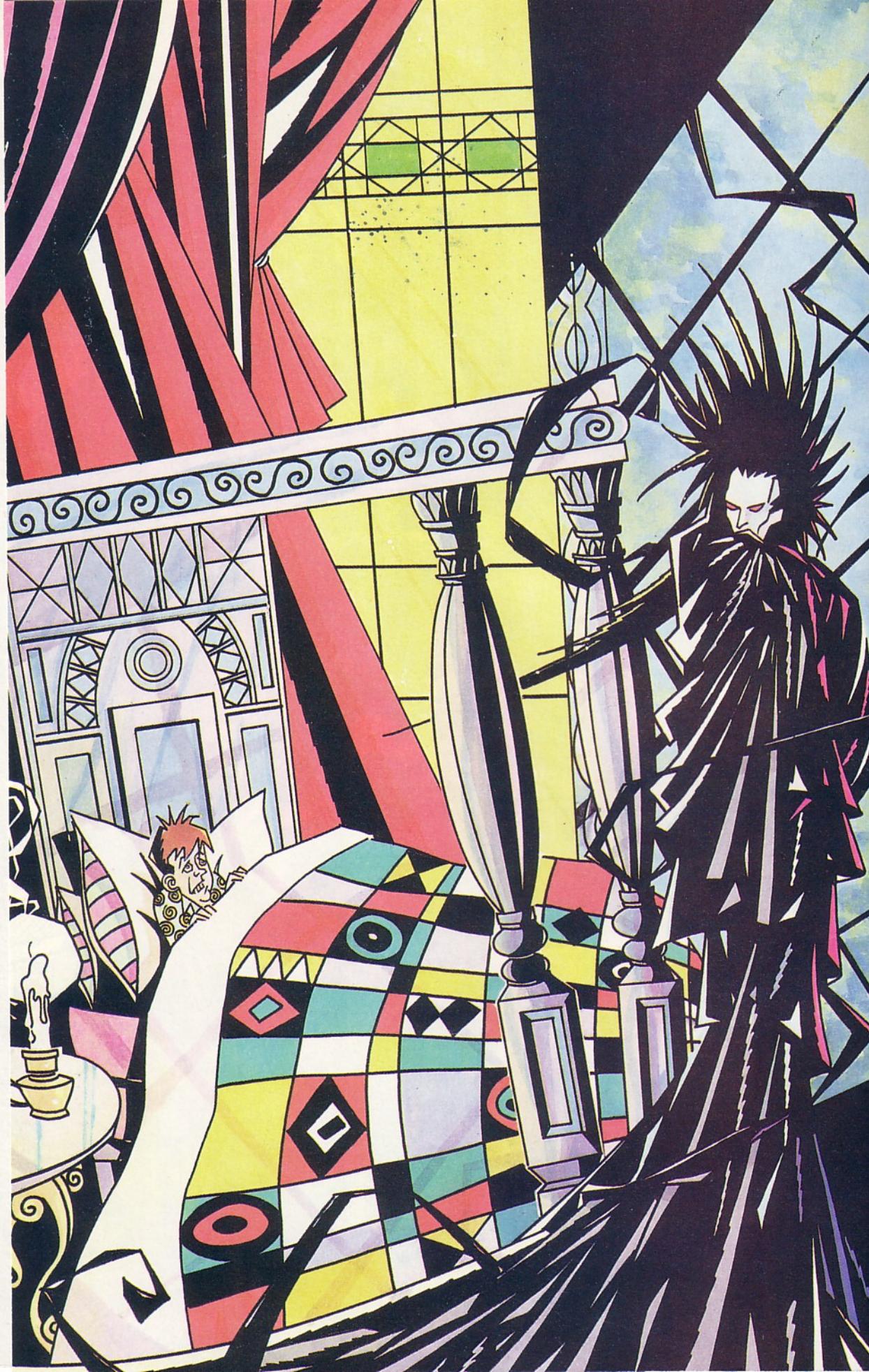






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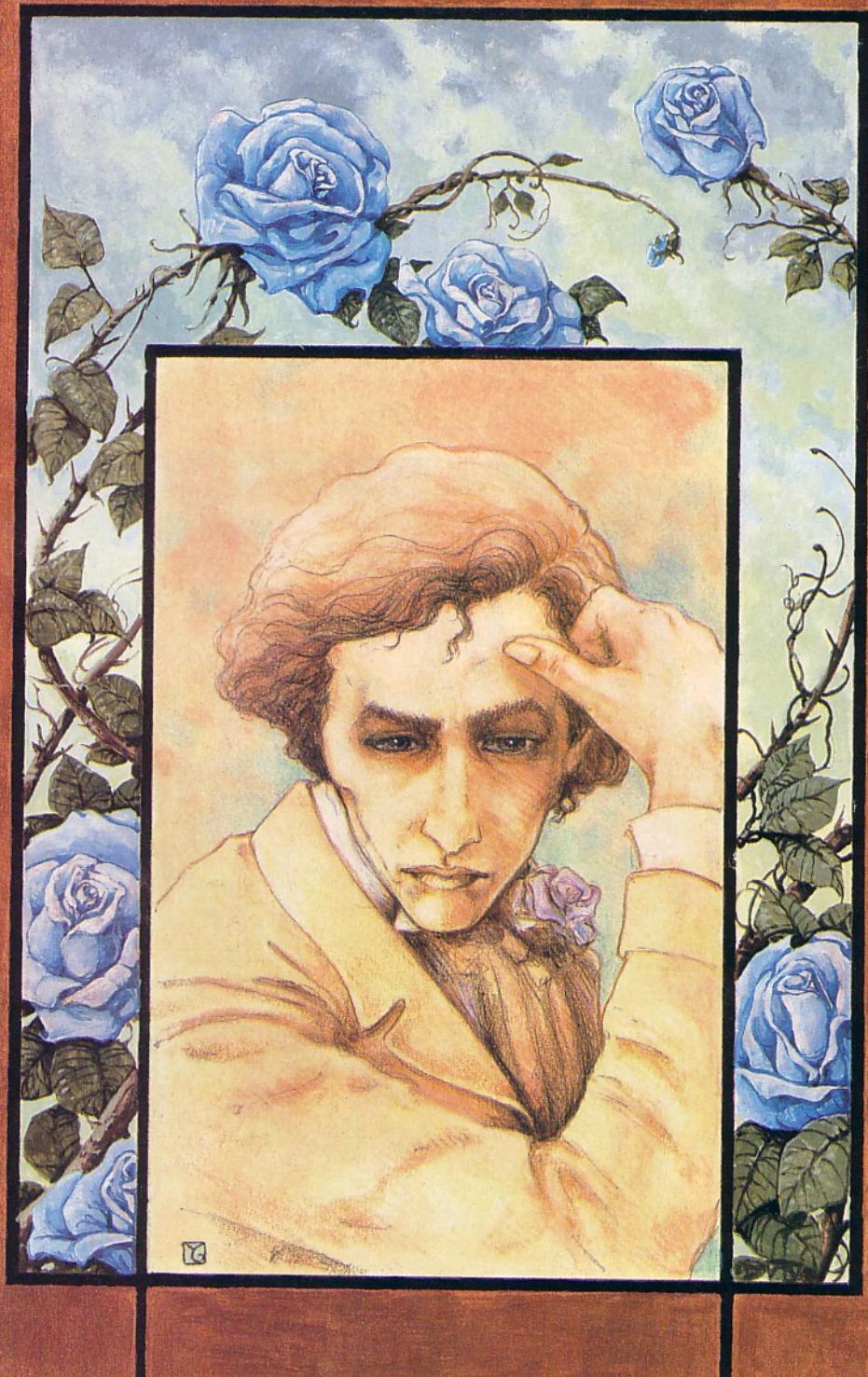




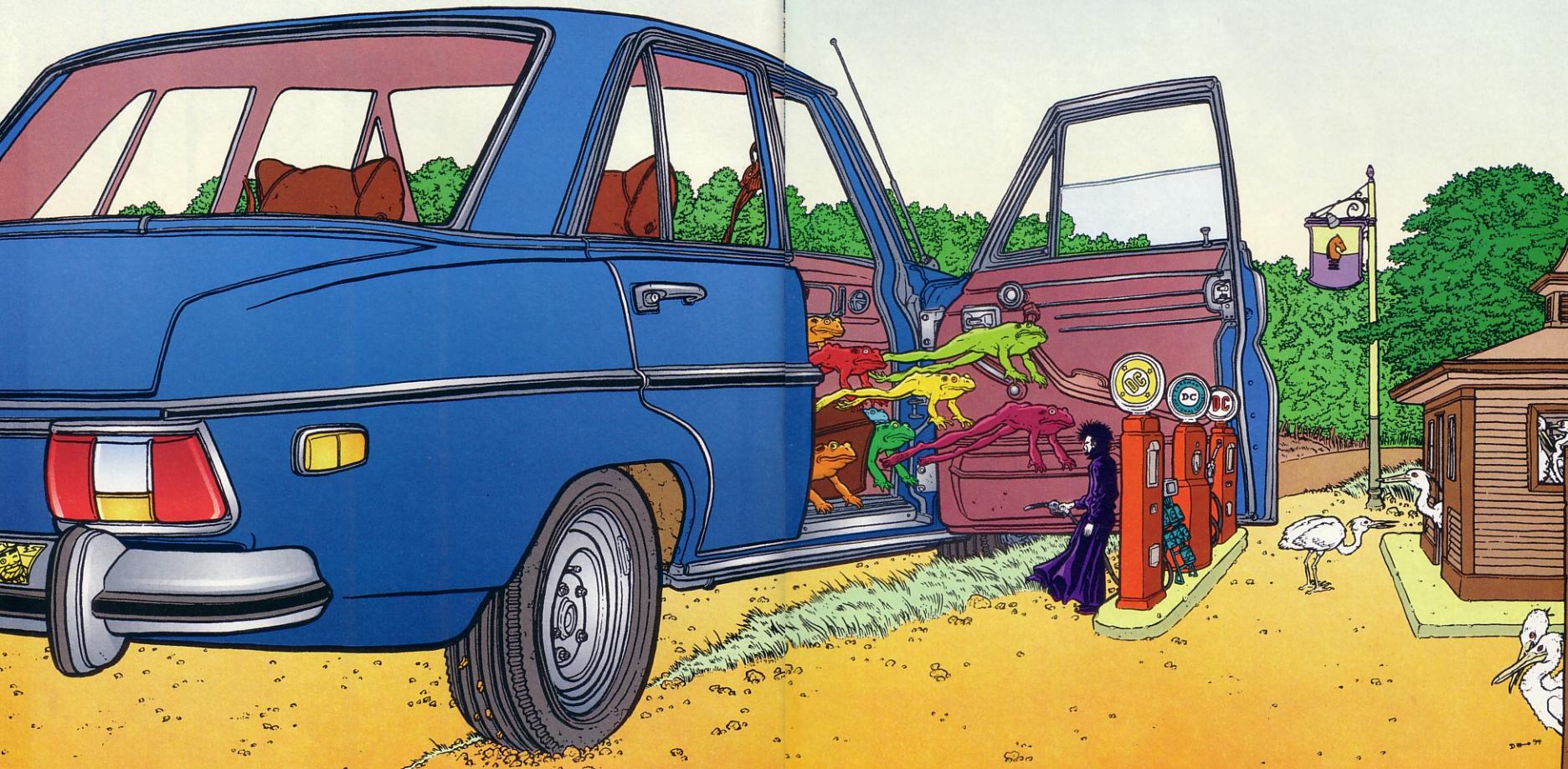


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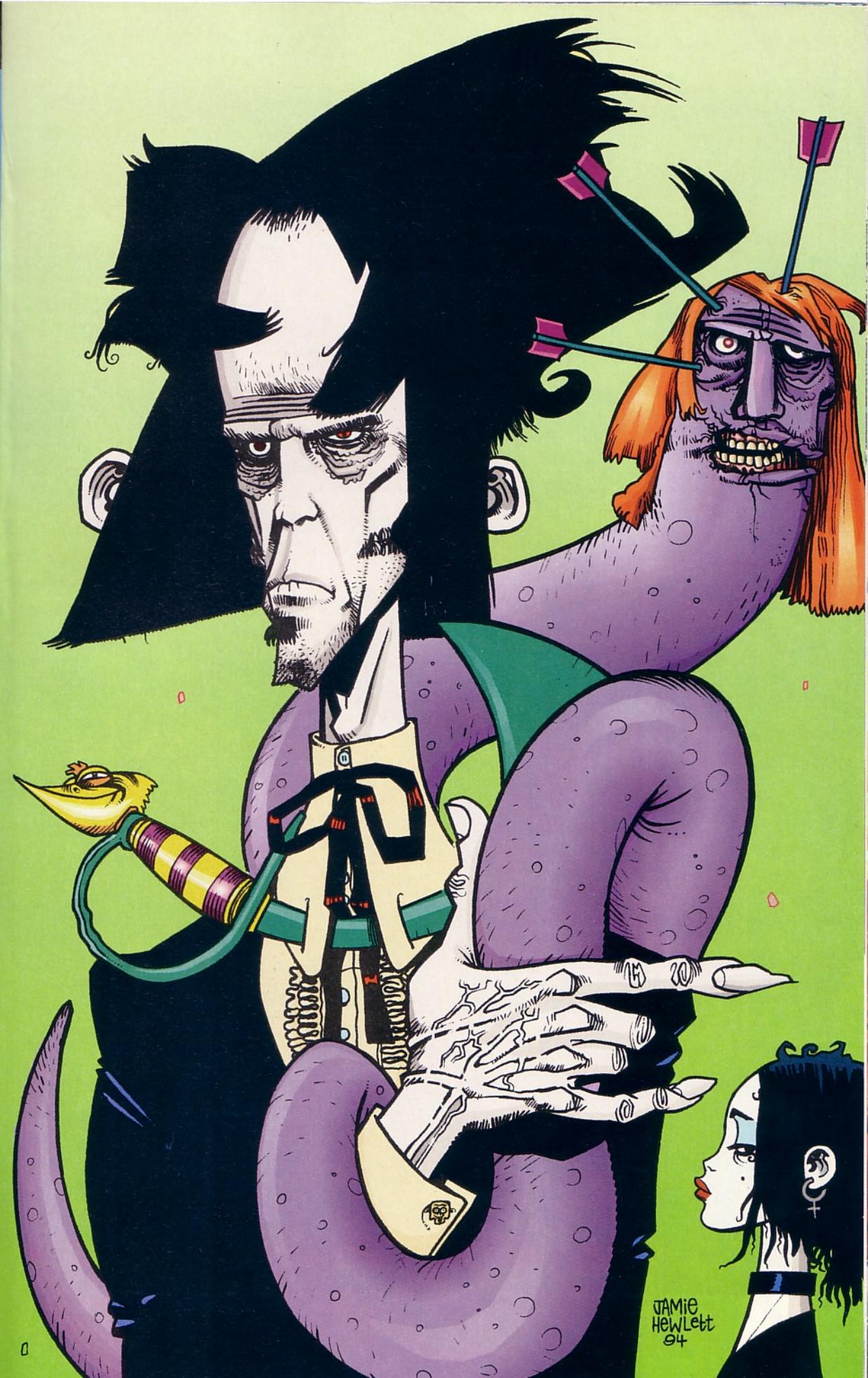


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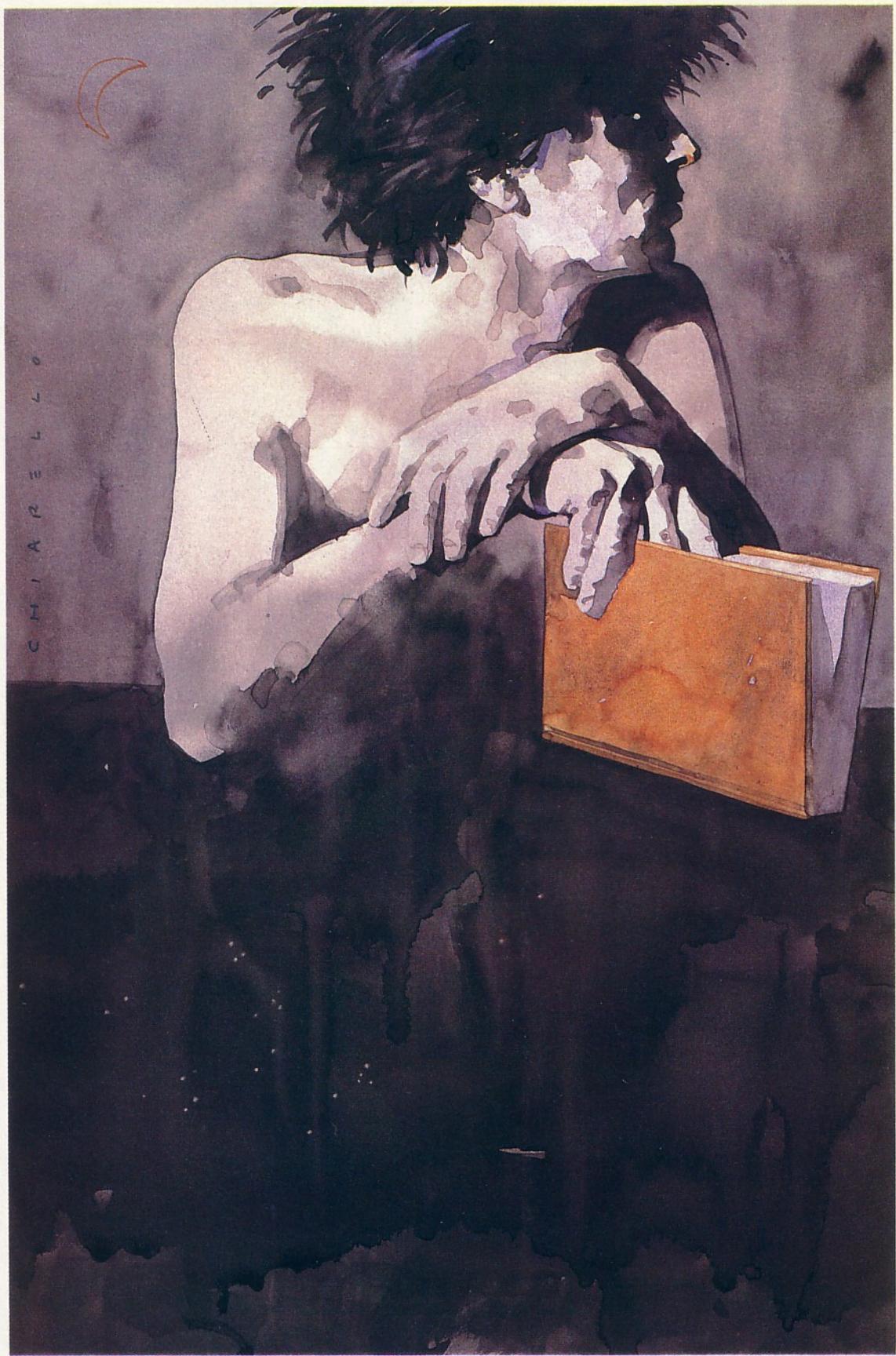




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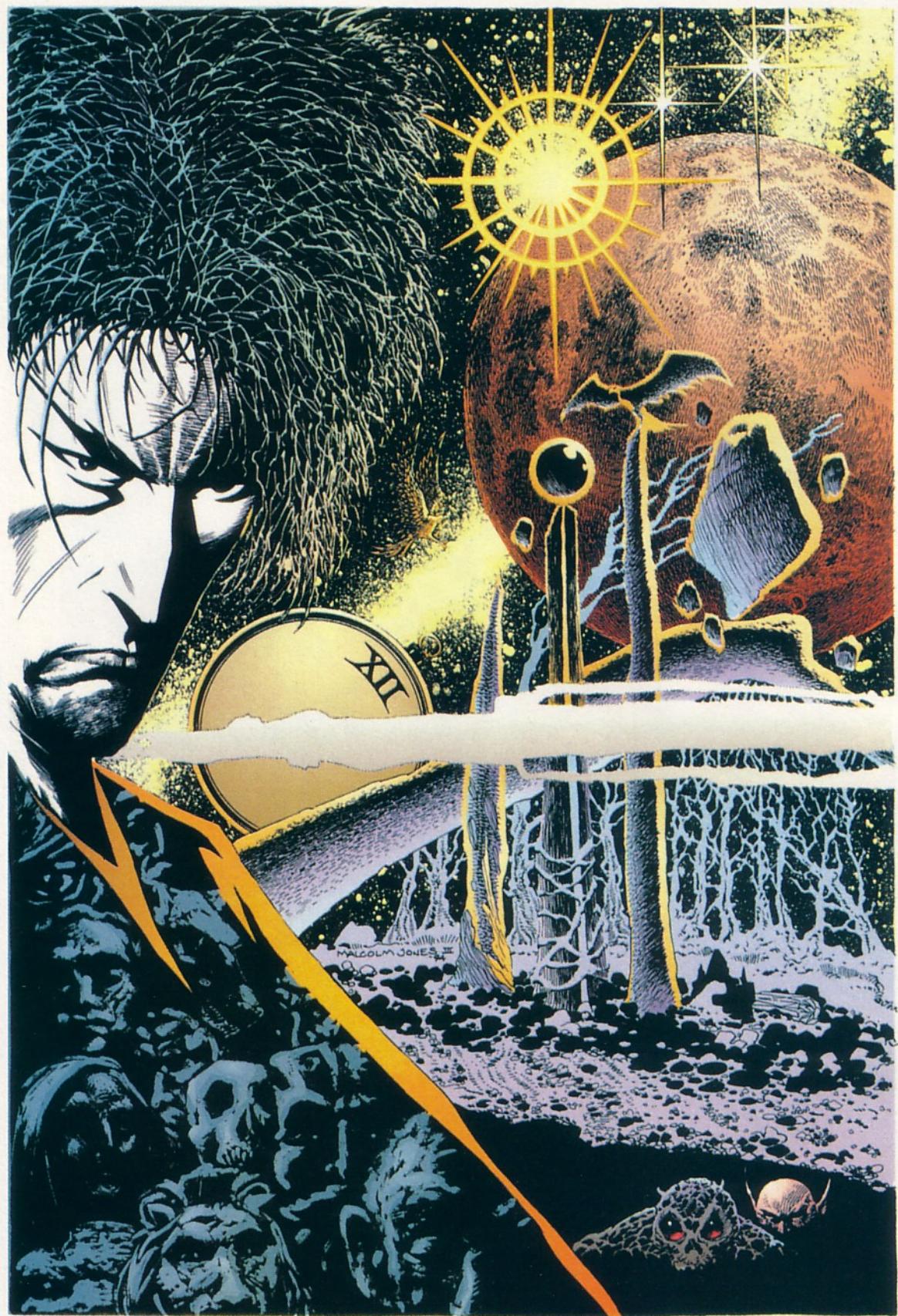
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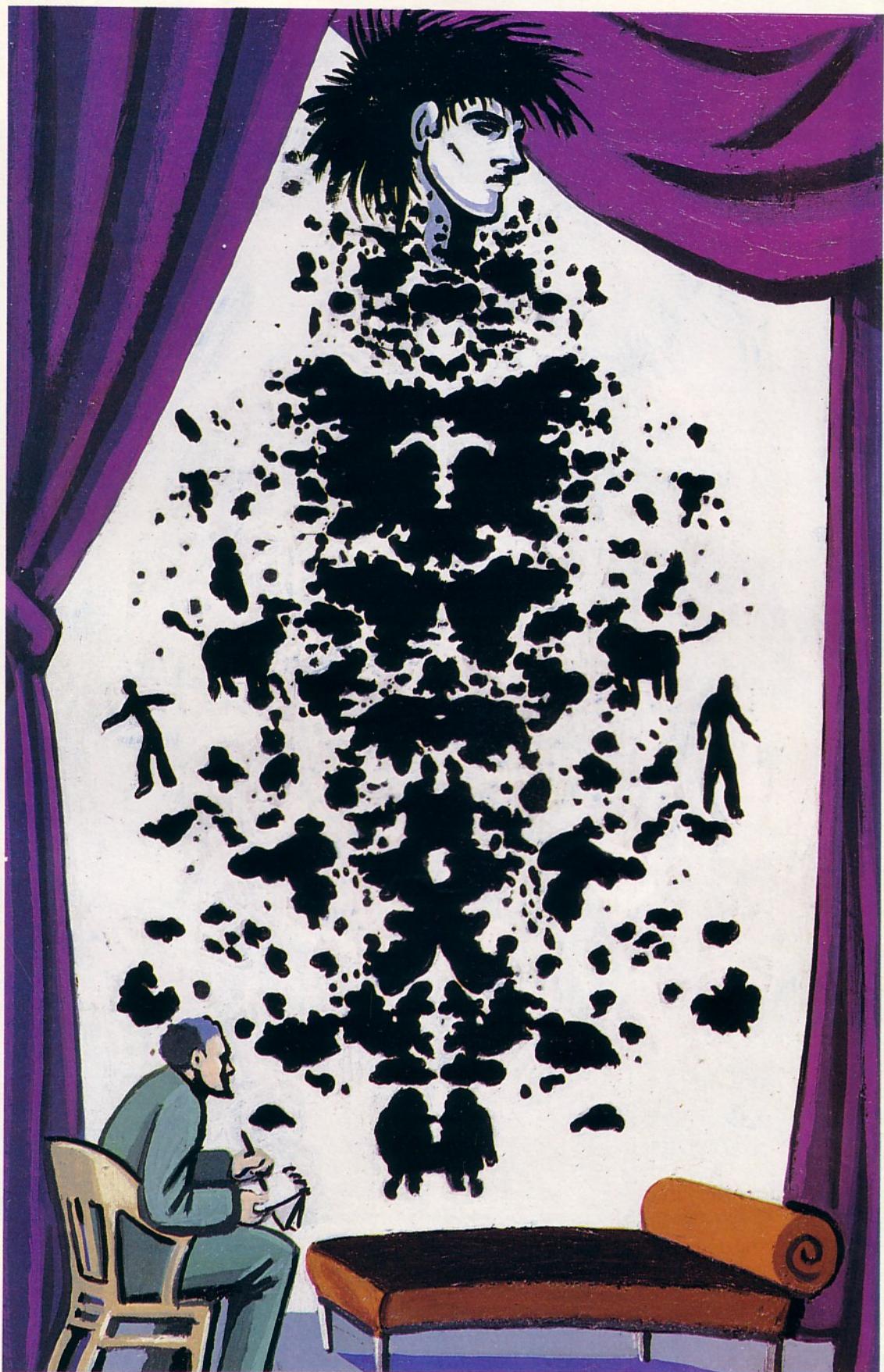
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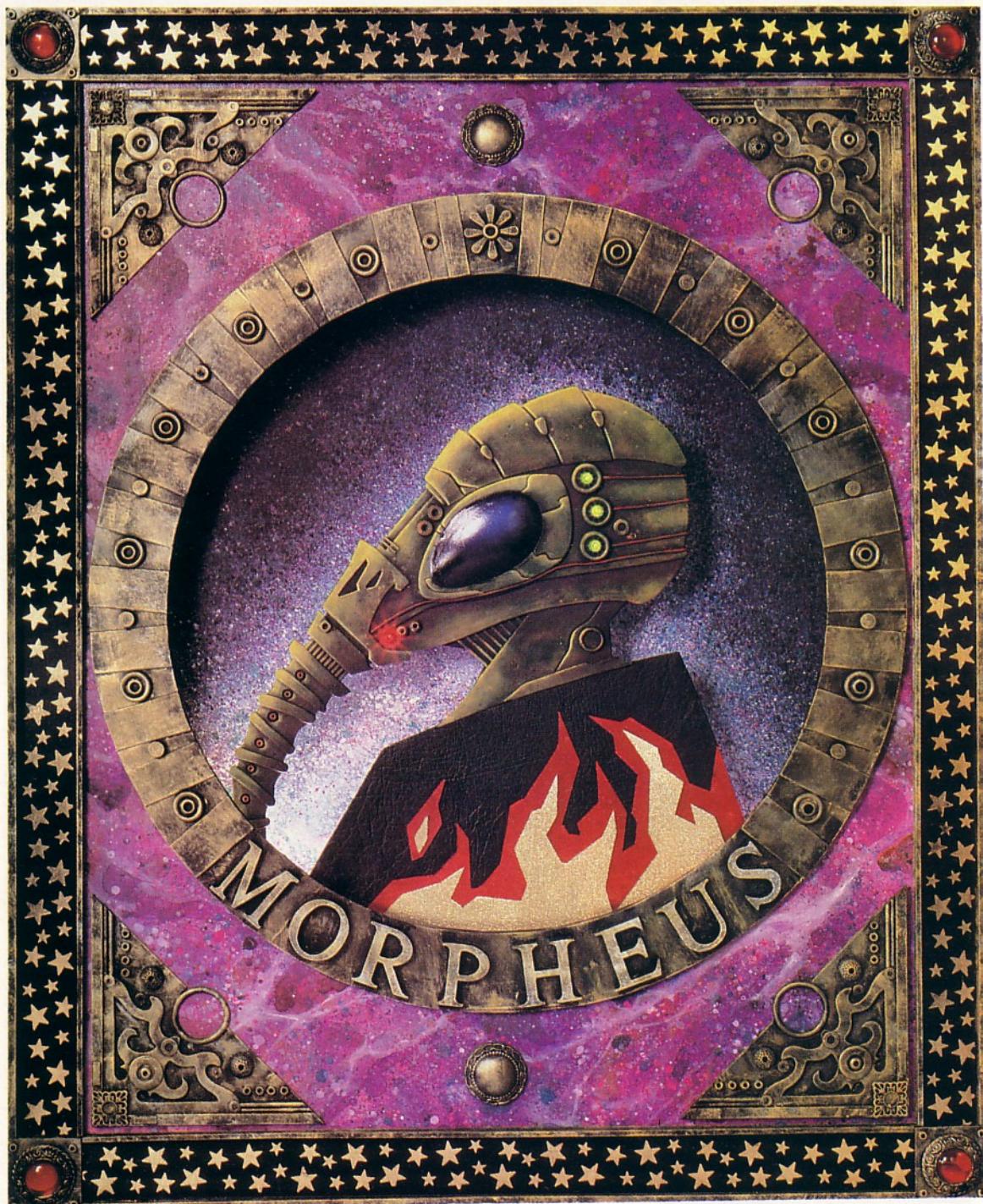


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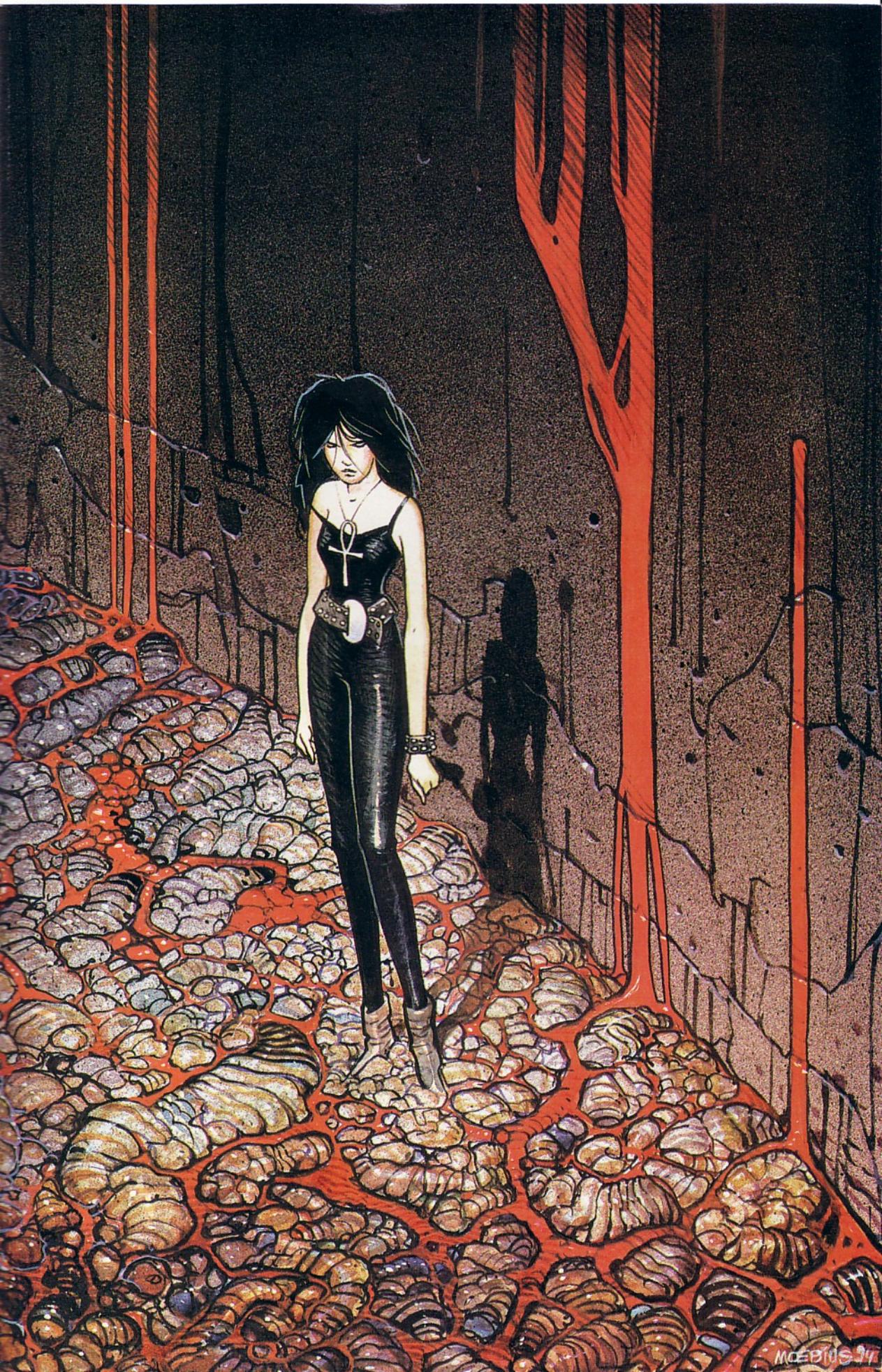
Gahan
Wilson











NOEBINS

"FOR SOME OF YOU THERE PRESENT
ARE WORSE THAN DEVILS"





NEIL GAIMAN'S DOODLES OF
THE SANDMAN FROM
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1987

As we approach the end, it is a disconcerting process to return to the beginning, to look at the places we started.

A year ago we made a Gallery for Death, inspected the places she came from. Her brother is harder to fathom, and his creation is harder to inspect: I've been hunting for the original outline, for a copy of the first *SANDMAN* script, and finding nothing, or only fragments of computer files, rough-printed pages of old scripts retained because I'd jotted notes to myself on the back. DC's copies have long since been thrown away.

Remembering the creation of the character now, and his early evolution, I remember only the 1987 hurricane and its aftermath: dark autumnal rooms lit by grey daylight or flickering candles, and I would write, and sketch little doodle-people, until even that became impossible, and I would find myself forced simply to sit, and to think.

The original notebook from those times remains, though. I found it some months ago in a box in the basement: it's like a time machine. Notes on the first eight stories (and for ones I never wrote: I never wrote the Hand of Glory story, for example, and I wonder now whether "The Brothel of Succubi" was the story that eventually turned into "Calliope"); there's a failed attempt to write a sestina to be formed by Lucifer's dialogue in *SANDMAN* #4 (in the same way that Squatterbloat the Gatekeeper's dialogue was successfully to form two troplets), and dozens of little sketches of the Sandman ("who is known by other names, such as Morpheus, or the Oneiromancer" it says in a note, although only Mad Hettie ever called him the Oneiromancer, and that not to his face).

I showed the sketches to Karen Berger, my editor, in January 1988, the night we rang Sam Kieth to find out if he wanted to draw a new monthly comic. Looking at them today I find myself surprised at how little the character has changed, visually, since before the beginning; although he has been better drawn.

And I find myself delighted that he and his family have acted as inspiration for this gallery. Dream himself is above being impressed by this sort of thing, and would take it as his due; I, on the other hand, find something magical in his continual reinterpretation, and I am easily impressed, both by how far he has come, and how little he has changed.

NEIL GAIMAN

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